

## **P-11: Native Americans and Tobacco in Washington**

**Venue:** Statewide

**Goal:** Reducing Health Disparities

**Sponsoring Organizations:** Federally-recognized tribes, Urban Indian groups

**Abstract:** Native Americans make up nearly 2% of the Washington population, and are located in tribal communities across the state. Current smoking among Native American/Alaskan Natives (NA/AN) is approximately 34.1% (29.9% for males and 39.1% for females) for 1998-2000 combined. This is in comparison to the state rate of 20.7% for 2000 (21.7% for males and 19.7% for females). Smokeless tobacco use among Native Americans is about double the state average. Youth smoking and smokeless tobacco use among Native Americans is much higher than the state average for all grade groups. Maternal smoking during pregnancy is similarly higher than the state average, and has been consistent for the past several years. Although small in population size, the dramatic disparities in tobacco use for Native Americans in all age and gender groups result in comparatively large proportions of individuals being affected by tobacco use. There are 28 federally recognized Native American tribes in Washington, and 23 of them were contracted to conduct tobacco prevention and control activities in the 2001-02 fiscal year.

**Recommendations:** DOH should follow recommendations made by the Cross-Cultural Workgroup on Tobacco, as part of a Strategic Plan for Reducing Disparities. Continued engagement of Native American community leaders will improve tobacco control capacity and culturally competent program delivery among Native American tribes and communities in Washington.

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